For Immediate Release
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Infrastructure grants awarded to communities across South Carolina
S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority awards more than $13 million in grant funds

COLUMBIA, S.C.— Recognizing that upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure can have significant environmental and economic benefits, the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority's (RIA) board of directors recently awarded more than $13 million in grant funds for water, sewer and drainage projects. This brings the number of projects awarded to 61 in Fiscal Year 2017, totaling nearly $24 million dollars.

Beyond making direct improvements to collection and distribution lines, storage tanks, pump stations and treatment plants, such projects will impact more than 50,000 residential customers and 6,000 businesses by ensuring safe drinking water for residents, providing reliability for area businesses and boosting economic opportunities.

"Funding these infrastructure projects provides a path to stronger communities, helping set the table for economic development," said S.C. Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as board chairman. "Such investments in infrastructure support homes, schools and businesses across South Carolina and improve the quality of life for all who live, work and play in our state."

Many water and sewer utilities are faced with aging infrastructure that is in need of constant rehabilitation and repair. Not only does this work result in disruptions in service, but it also serves as a reminder that upgrades are needed to ensure that all customers are provided with modern and efficient infrastructure.

Now in its fifth year of funding, the RIA supports such efforts through its statewide financing programs.

RIA grants are awarded twice a year through a competitive process that considers the need for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability and economic development. Applicants are required to match the RIA funding request. Applications are selected by the RIA board based on criteria, including: severity of the problem, expected impact and project feasibility.

A full list of grant recipients for the second round of Fiscal Year 2017 is below. To learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance, visit www.ria.sc.gov.

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S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority FY2017 Grant Recipients

Aiken, City of	Economic Water Infrastructure	$500,000
Bethune, Town of	Water System Improvements	$350,000
Calhoun County	Economic Water Infrastructure	$500,000
Camden, City of	Sewer System Improvements	$500,000
Central, Town of	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	$500,000
Cheraw, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	$500,000
Chester County Wastewater Recovery	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	$500,000
Conway, City of	Drainage System Upgrade	$500,000
Dillon, City of	Sewer System Improvements	$498,125
Donalds-Due West Water and Sewer Authority	Water Line Upgrades	$307,500
Dorchester County	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	$500,000
Dorchester County Water Authority	Water Line Upgrades	$255,640
Due West, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	$142,000
Eastover, Town of	Pump Station Upgrade	$96,525
Gray Court, Town of	Water Line Upgrades	$250,000
Great Falls, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	$500,000
Greenwood, City of	Drainage System Upgrade	$147,598
Hemingway, Town of	Water System Improvements	$500,000
Inman, City of	Economic Sewer Infrastructure	$500,000
Jefferson, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	$497,500
Lamar ,Town of	Water Tank Improvements	$500,000
Latta, Town of	Water Line Upgrades	$131,660
Liberty - Chesnee - Fingerville Water District	Water Line Upgrades	$263,057
Manning, City of	Economic Water Infrastructure	$500,000
North Charleston Sewer District	Sewer System Improvements	$500,000
Pamplico, Town of	Water System Improvements	$325,500
Saluda Commission of Public Works	Pump Station Upgrade	$500,000
Seneca, City of	Sewer System Improvements	$500,000
Swansea, Town of	Water Line Upgrades	$498,500
Tega Cay, City of	Water Tank Construction	$500,000
Union, City of	Economic Water Infrastructure	$159,725
West Columbia, City of	Water Tank Improvements	$500,000
Westminster, City of	Sewer System Improvements	$411,064
Williamsburg County Water and Sewer Authority	Water Line Extension	$318,219
		$13,652,613
	Previously Awarded Grants	$10,228,221
TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED		**$23,880,834**